

Three years ago, Congress put into the appropriations bill for the education appropriation and health education a research requirement that the Department of Education and the National Institute of Child Health and Development together look at all research that has been done on how children learn to read to give us a better road map, answer the questions that have so confounded us for so many of our children.

Today, I am thrilled to know that tomorrow the National Reading Panel is going to give us their answers. They are going to tell us what all the research together tells us about how children learn to read. They are going to answer many of the questions that we have, many of the questions that our teachers around this country want so that they can have a better road map as they approach reading in ways that are the most effective.

I am here today to share with the American people and with the Congress the importance that, number one, we have this information; number two, that we make sure that our teachers in our schools around the country get this information and that it is incorporated into our lessons as we go forward in our efforts to make sure that every child learn and learn at a high level; number 3, that we make sure that all future research is done according to standards that will give us the feedback we need to answer additional questions that we have.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that our children are waiting for us to have this answer. They only get to be 6 years old once in their life. They only get to be in that time of their life once where they can learn to read and they can learn to read well. After that, it is a struggle.

And so, for every child that today is in the first grade, for every child that tomorrow and next year will be in the first grade, let us make sure that we listen to what the scientists can tell us. They can give us a good road map on what we are doing right and what we are doing wrong. And may we please not be so closed minded or set in our ways that we cannot change and adjust and incorporate in our schools and in our children's lives this information that we have waited so long for.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) for organizing this special order this evening on the Armenian genocide.

The leadership on this issue of importance to Armenian people has been vital. It is with some sadness that I know this will be the last statement of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER) on the Armenian genocide in this

body, and I thank the gentleman for all his fine work.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take note of the tragic occurrences perpetrated on the Armenian people between 1915 and 1923 by the Ottoman Turkish Empire.

During this relatively brief time frame, over 1½ million Armenians were massacred and over 500,000 were exiled. Unfortunately, the Turkish Government still has not recognized these brutal acts as acts of genocide, nor come to terms with its participation in these horrific events.

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I believe that by failing to recognize such barbaric acts, one becomes complicit in them. That is why as a New York State assemblyman, I was proud to support legislation adding lessons on human rights and genocide to the State education curricula. I am also a proud cosponsor of H. Res. 398, the United States Training on and Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide Resolution.

H. Res. 398 calls upon the President to provide for appropriate training and materials to all foreign service officers, officials of the Department of State, and any other executive branch employee involved in responding to issues related to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and genocide by familiarizing themselves with the U.S. record relating to the Armenian Genocide.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this very important resolution.

April 24 is recognized as the anniversary date of the Armenian Genocide. The history of this date stretches back to 1915, when on April 24, 300 Armenian leaders, intellectuals and professionals in Constantinople were rounded up, deported and killed, beginning the period known as the Armenian Genocide.

Prior to the Armenian Genocide, these brave people with the history of well over 3,000 years old were subject to numerous indignities and periodic massacres by the Sultans of the Ottoman Empire. The worst of these massacres occurred in 1895 when as many as 300,000 Armenian civilians were brutally massacred and thousands more were left destitute. Additional massacres were committed in 1909 and 1920. By 1922, Armenians had been eradicated from their homeland.

Yet, despite these events, the Armenian people survived as a people and a culture in both Europe and the United States. My congressional district has a number of Armenians, especially in the Woodside community, and their community activism is extraordinary, to say the least.

Mr. Speaker, I make note of this because of a statement by Adolph Hitler when speaking about the "final solution," when he said who remembers the Armenians. Mr. Speaker, I remember the Armenians and so do many of my colleagues speaking here this evening.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROGAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join so many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle tonight to rise in support of House Resolution 398 commemorating the Armenian Genocide. House Resolution 398 is a necessary step for our government to take, a recognition of the historical truth of one of history's cruelest acts against a great and good people.

Between 1915 and 1923, over 1 million Armenians whose ancestors had inhabited their homeland since the time of Christ were displaced, deported, tortured and killed at the hands of the Ottoman Empire. Families were slaughtered. Homes were burned. Villages were destroyed and lives were torn apart.

Regrettably in the years since, officials from what is now Turkey have denied this history and failed to recognize the truth, the historical truth of the Armenian Genocide.

Mr. Speaker, as their loved ones were killed, many right before their very eyes, more than 1 million Armenians managed to escape and establish a new life here in the United States. I am honored to have a large portion of the Armenian American community residing in my district in and around Glendale, California.

The Armenian people suffered a horrific tragedy in the first part of the 20th century. Today, our government can work to ensure that the 21st century is a century free both from genocide, and also free from lies.

We must not stray from our work to embrace democracy and build a world that is free from suffering on this immense scale, but that building can never happen as long as we allow one of the worst slaughters in world history to continue to go being unrecognized.

Mr. Speaker, I went through 4 years of college and never once heard about the Armenian Genocide in public schools. We have whole generations of people that have been raised not knowing anything about it because it is not politically correct to teach it in our schools, because we are afraid it might offend an oil-producing Nation with whom we have commercial or military ties.

I just think that that is a wrong-headed approach. It is a disgrace for our Congress. And the purpose of House Resolution 398 is to take a major step toward right and toward morality and recognizing this historical truth.

Today on the eve of the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, I ask my colleagues to join with our bipartisan group that you have already heard from tonight and will hear from again in support of House Resolution 398 to commemorate the Armenian Genocide.

Having visited the Republic of Armenian and also Nagorno-Karabakh just a

few short months ago, I can attest that the Armenian people have triumphed over tragedy and are building a prosperous democracy. It is a nation that we should be proud to lock arms with and stand with in the greater cause of good, and it is for that reason that I urge my colleagues to join us and support this important resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HOLT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

JOINT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING DAY OF HONOR 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, first let me certainly acknowledge the eve of the Armenian genocide anniversary and say to my colleagues that all of us should acknowledge such tragic loss of life. But today I rise to introduce a House Joint Resolution, H.J. Res. 98, to designate May 25, 2000, as a national day of honor for minority veterans of World War II.

Seventy-three of my colleagues have already joined me in cosponsoring this resolution. I want to extend my thanks to Senator EDWARD KENNEDY of Massachusetts for joining me by introducing an identical resolution in the United States Senate. I am also very proud that the Day of Honor 2000 Project, a nonprofit organization based in Massachusetts, has helped enlist the support of many Americans to make this resolution possible. In fact, those who are working to propose the World War II veterans memorial here in Washington, D.C. have acknowledged their support for this very special day. Without the support of the Day of Honor Project 2000, this resolution could have never been possible.

The purpose of this joint resolution is to honor and recognize the service of minority veterans in the United States armed forces during World War II. The resolution calls upon communities across the Nation to participate in celebrations to honor minority veterans on May 25, 2000, and throughout the year 2000. Our goal is that the Nation will have an opportunity to pause on May 25, leading up to Memorial

Day, to express our gratitude to the veterans of all minority groups who served the Nation so ably. The day will be special because we honor those who fought for the preservation of democracy and our protection of our way of life.

Unfortunately, many minority veterans never obtained the commensurate recognition that they deserve. We honor all veterans. We certainly honor all veterans in World War II, but it is important to designate and to honor those who during those times as they returned did not receive the fullest of honor. When we look back to the darkest days of World War II we remember and revere the acts of courage and personal sacrifice that each of our soldiers gave to their Nation to achieve Allied victory over Nazism and fascism.

In the 1940s, minorities were utilized in the Allied operation just as any other Americans. My father-in-law in fact was part of the Tuskegee Airmen. Yet we have never adequately recognized the accomplishments of minority veterans. During the war, at least 1.2 million African American citizens either served or sacrificed their lives. In addition, more than 300,000 Hispanic Americans, more than 50,000 Asians, more than 20,000 Native Americans, more than 6,000 native Hawaiians and Pacific islanders, and more than 3,000 native Alaskans also served their country or sacrificed their lives in preserving our freedom during World War II.

Despite the invidious discrimination that many minority veterans were subjected to at home, they fought honorably along with all other Americans including other nations. An African American had to answer the call to duty as others, indeed, possibly sacrifice his life; yet he or she enjoyed a separate but equal status back home. This is something that we can readily correct and with this resolution with the number of cosponsors, I believe that we can move toward seeing this honor come to fruition on the floor of the House.

I would ask my colleagues to readily sign on to H.J. Res. 98 to be able to honor these valiant and valuable members of our society for all that they have done. They are American heroes that deserve recognition for their efforts. For this reason the resolution specifically asks President Clinton to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to honor these minority veterans with appropriate programs and activities. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a House Joint Resolution 98 to designate May 25, 2000, as a national Day of Honor for minority veterans of World War II. 73 of my colleagues have already joined me in cosponsoring this resolution.

I want to extend my thanks to Senator EDWARD KENNEDY of Massachusetts for joining me by introducing an identical resolution in the U.S. Senate.

I am also very proud that The Day of Honor 2000 Project, a non-profit organization based in Massachusetts, has helped enlist the support of many Americans to make this resolution possible. Without the support of The Day of Honor Project 2000, this resolution could have never been possible.

The purpose of this joint resolution is to honor and recognize the service of minority veterans in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II. The resolution calls upon communities across the nation to participate in celebrations to honor minority veterans on May 25, 2000, and throughout the year 2000. Our goal is that the nation will have an opportunity to pause on May 25th to express our gratitude to the veterans of all minority groups who served the nation so ably.

The day will be special because we honor those who fought for the preservation of democracy and our protection of our way of life. Unfortunately, many minority veterans never obtained the commensurate recognition that they deserve.

When we look back to darkest days of World War II, we remember and revere the acts of courage and personal sacrifice that each of our soldiers gave to their nation to achieve Allied victory over Nazism and fascism. In the 1940s, minorities were utilized in the allied operations just as any other American.

Yet, we have never adequately recognized the accomplishments of minority veterans. During the war, at least 1,200,000 African Americans citizens either served or sacrificed their lives. In addition, more than 300,000 Hispanic Americans, more than 50,000 Asians, more than 20,000 Native Americans, more than 6,000 Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, and more than 3,000 Native Alaskans also served their country or sacrificed their lives in preserving our freedom during World War II.

Despite the invidious discrimination that most minority veterans were subjected to at home, they fought honorably along with all other Americans, including other nations. An African American had to answer the call to duty, indeed possibly sacrifice his life, yet he or she enjoyed separate but equal status back home.

Too often, when basic issues of equality and respect for their service in the war arose, Jim Crow and racial discrimination replied with a resounding "no." This is a sad but very real chapter of our history.

This all happened, of course, before the emergence of Dr. Martin Luther King, Sr. in America. As a nation, we have long since recognized the unfair treatment of minorities as a travesty of justice. The enactment of fundamental civil rights laws by Congress over the past half-century have remedied the worst of these injustices. And this has given us some hope. But, as we all know, we have yet to give adequate recognition to the service, struggle, and sacrifices of these brave Americans who fought in World War II for our future.

For many of these minority veterans, the memories of World War II never disappear. When we lose a loved one, whether it is a mother, father, sibling, child, or friend, we often sense that we lose a part of ourselves. For each of us, the loss of life—whether expected or not—is not easily surmountable.

Minority veterans had to overcome a great deal after the war. They not only came back